

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention refers to a method and an apparatus for determining characteristics of components of a communication channel. In order to simplify the inter-system coordination in a beginning of life test of a satellite communication channel and avoiding the interference of adjacent satellite systems the method according to the invention comprises the following steps: modulating a clean carrier signal  $f(t)$  by spread spectrum modulation to generate a spreaded clean carrier signal  $s(t)$ ; transmitting said spreaded clean carrier signal  $s(t)$  through said communication channel at a first predetermined level; receiving a receive signal  $s'(t)$  corresponding to said spreaded clean carrier signal  $s(t)$  after having traveled through said communication channel; demodulating said receive signal  $s'(t)$  by spread spectrum demodulation to generate a despreaded carrier signal  $f'(t)$ ; determining characteristics of components of the communication channel on the basis of a comparison of said clean carrier signal  $f(t)$  and said despreaded carrier signal  $f'(t)$ .